

## GENERAL NEWS

## WHAT THE DISPATCHES TELL.

## The News Boiled Down and Presented in Convenient Form for Busy Readers.

Gen. Cassius M. Clay, of Kentucky, died last week, aged 93.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Grover Cleveland, July 18th. He is the fifth child of the ex-President and the second son.

James McNeill Whistler, the American painter, died suddenly at his residence in London, July 18th. He had been ill for some time.

The long-continued decline in prices for securities on the stock exchange resulted Friday afternoon in the announcement of the failure of two important exchange brokerage firms in the New York Stock Exchange.

Briefly stated, the charge against Machen, the former Superintendent of the rural free delivery service, is this: Little cast-iron clips used to fasten mail boxes to lamp posts in cities and the collection boxes on rural free delivery routes to posts, costing the makers, Groff Bros., 25 cents, were sold to the Government for \$1.25 a piece, and out of each \$1.25, Machen received 50 cents as his commission. No wonder he has grown rich.—Mascot.

William Ernest Henley, the English poet and journalist, who lately died in London at the age of 54, is perhaps most widely known as the friend of R. L. Stevenson, who spoke his mind rather too frankly about the latter at a time when anything short of a glowing tribute seemed disloyal. Speaking his mind frankly was a habit with Mr. Henley; and as he gathered about him in his journalist enterprises a band of able writers, he was able to wield a considerable influence on English thought and opinion. His judgments were generally erratic and his expression of them was often violent; so that he was taken with a grain of salt. His poems have a certain rough strength.—Exchange.

The general crop outlook, says the Washington correspondent of The Progressive Farmer, is not particularly flattering although by no means hopeless. The yield from winter wheat has been under the estimate and the indications are now that the oat crop will also be less than was promised. The condition of spring wheat in the Red River valley is beyond recovery, and much rust has appeared in Iowa. Elsewhere the reports are favorable. Corn has made steady advance, but in the principal corn States it is variable as to size, being quite small in the central and eastern parts of the district. Cotton has improved steadily, but the crop is late and grassy in many places. The peach crop is quite poor and the quality not of a high order. About the same can be said for melons. Apples, however, promise an average yield.

## FIRST NEW COTTON.

## It Was Three Weeks Later Than Last Year's First Bale.

New York, July 21.—The first bale of cotton of the 1903 cotton crop arrived here this morning and was sold for 26½ cents a pound. George W. Cummings made the first bid for 15 cents and the last bid, which secured the cotton. The cotton was raised in Japata County, Texas, and was shipped from Houston, Texas, to Latham, Alexander & Company, who put it up for sale. The cotton was said by experts to be of unusually high grade. It was received later than the first bale of the 1902 crop, which was sold in front of the Exchange July 2, 1902.

## Irish Land Bill Passes.

London, July 21.—The Irish land bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons to-day. Mr. Wyndham, Chief Secretary of Ireland, the introducer of the bill, who is in Ireland with the king, could not be present to receive the congratulations which Mr. John Redmond, the leader of the Irish party in the House, warmly bestowed upon him.

## A Speculators' Panic.

Again last week there was a spectacular fall in stocks—standard "investment securities" like New York Central and Pennsylvania selling for 114 and 120, respectively, or more than fifty points below the highest level reached last year. The same kind of general reactions extended throughout the list, and imposing fortunes that seemed to have been created out of nothing when the markets were advancing vanished into nothingness. But the most striking as well as the most gratifying feature of the recent fall in securities, is the small number of bankruptcies resulting from them. According to "Dun's Review," the number of commercial failures has been actually less than a year ago, when the wave of prosperity at nearly all points was at the high-water mark. The present panic is thus far at least a speculator's affair, and had not the fever of speculation spread so alarmingly in all ranks of society relatively few would be suffering from its consequences. The effect of the reaction, however, is not entirely limited to the world of speculators. Stocks have tumbled because of the overstrained credit of those supporting them, and as they have tumbled credits have been still further weakened, and the demand for money has been greatly intensified. Rates have therefore risen for business men of all classes, and even so prosperous a corporation as the Union Pacific Railroad Company was last week compelled to pay six per cent interest when borrowing ten million dollars for a year and a half. It is to be feared that this rise in interest rates may later result in an increase of commercial failures.—New York Outlook.

## Death of Pope Leo.

Pope Leo died last Monday evening while last week's issue of The Progressive Farmer was on the press. After impressive funeral ceremonies the body was buried Saturday. The article on "Pope Leo and the Catholic" on page 6 of our last number contained much valuable information, and a fuller account of the Pope's career (clipped from the New York Outlook of July 25th) is given herewith:

Leo XIII., who was reckoned by some authorities of the Church as the two hundred and fifty-third, by others as the two hundred and fifty-seventh pontiff to fill Peter's chair, was in his ninety-fourth year. He was the son of Count Ludovico Pecci, and was baptized under the name Vincent Joachim (or Giacomo) Pecci. He was educated at a Jesuit college in Viterbo, in the ecclesiastical colleges of Rome, and at the Roman University. It is recorded that his youthful attainments were unusual not only in the classics and in philosophy, but also in mathematics and physics, and he was made a Doctor of Laws some sixty-five years ago. Taking holy orders, he received preferment of various kinds from Pope Gregory XVI., and in his administration of the church's affairs at Perugia and Benevento showed vigorous executive ability; in Benevento, for instance, he is largely to be credited with putting an end to a long-established system of brigandage.

Pius IX. created Pecci a cardinal in 1853, after he had held the offices of Bishop of Perugia and Archbishop of Damietta. Just twenty-five years later he was chosen by the conclave to succeed Pius IX. As is more common than otherwise the choice was a compromise between factions whose candidates were too strong to yield one to the other, but not strong enough to secure a majority. Pecci was regarded as a moderate compared with the candidates of the extreme conservative and racial parties.

In matters relating to international politics Leo XIII. soon showed a tendency to placate enemies rather than to provoke contests; particularly was this so with regard to Germany, whose Government soon recognized the Pope's force and ability, and reached with him a peaceable understanding upon questions growing out of the kulturkampf controversy, which at one time seemed impossible of a reasonable solution. The same desire for conciliation was shown in Leo's dealings with Russia in regard to the treatment of Roman Catholics in that country. In American affairs he has always taken a warm interest; during his last illness he once exclaimed, "The Americans love me more than any other people."

Leo XIII. has steadfastly maintained his claim to the temporal sovereignty of Rome, and, like Pius IX., has acted on the theory that he was a prisoner within the extensive buildings and grounds of the Vatican; in pursuance of this theory he has always refused to touch the income voted him by the Italian Parlia-

ment and has otherwise ignored the official acts of the Italian Government, although in many practical points there has been a good understanding between the two powers.

The celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the late Pope's coronation occurred in St. Peter's March 3 last, with all the impressiveness and grandeur of the Catholic Church, and on April 28 the Pontificate of the late Pope surpassed in length that of St. Peter, Leo XIII. having been elected Pope twenty-five years, two months and seven days, known as "The Years of Peter."

A curious ceremony attendant on the death of a Pope is the manner in which it is officially ascertained that he is no longer of the living. One of the highest dignitaries of the Vatican goes to the bedside and with a small gold mallet kept solely for this purpose, taps three times upon the forehead of the Pope, with each blow calling upon him by his baptismal name: "Giacomo Pecci! Giacomo Pecci! Giacomo Pecci! Art thou alive?" Then and not till then the Pope is officially dead. Despatches from Rome state that the funeral of Leo XIII. is a remarkably magnificent spectacle, and Cardinal Oreglia, who is now in supreme command at the Vatican, says that he will revive the lying in state in the Sistine Chapel; yet the obsequies of a Pope are traditionally of the simplest nature, the assumption being that he is beyond all need of the pomps and ceremonies which are lavished upon the newly elected pontiff.

During the conclave of the cardinals for the election of the new Pope, they are as completely isolated from outside influences as the members of a jury in a murder trial. The part of the Vatican where the conclave is held is securely walled off and kept under the strictest surveillance. The food and whatever else is admitted is rigidly examined. The conclave will assemble July 31st.

## A MILLION A YEAR.

## Forecast of Immigration Statistics by the Head of the Bureau.

Washington, July 25.—One million immigrants to the shores of the United States in 1904. These are the figures, absolutely without exaggeration—alarming as they may be—that are forecasted by the statistics for the fiscal year 1903, just made public by Frank P. Sargent, Commissioner General of Immigration.

In 1902 the number of immigrants was 648,475. For the fiscal year 1903, ended June 30, the number had leaped to 857,046. This is an increase in twelve monthsh of 208,571, or 32 per cent.

If this rate be maintained the total for the next fiscal year will be above 1,000,000. Even should the rate fall to an average of 25 per cent, the 1,000,000 mark in the flood of aliens to these shores will be passed.

Referring to past records, the only other year in American history which approached the figures of 1903 was 1882. Then this country had very lax immigration laws and the foreign flood was encouraged. The figures went to 786,992. That remained the high-water mark until the last fiscal year.